



## High Spen Primary School Newsletter

15<sup>th</sup> February 2013



### **Climate Climax**

Thank you to those parents and friends who were fortunate enough to be able to make it in to school yesterday to see the culmination of our whole school topic on Climate Change. Walking around the classrooms left nobody in doubt over the excellent quality of work produced by our children!

TY finished off the morning with an unforgettable drama performance which they wrote themselves pulling together what they have learned about the impact we have on our planet. AMAZING!

### **Facebook**

Although we appreciate Facebook is set up for those 13yr and over, it does occasionally raise its head in Primary School and will certainly touch the virtual worlds of some of the older siblings. For this reason we thought it best to share the following information. Last week we heard of an instance within our area where a girl had accepted a friend request from a male whose name she thought she recognised. The male had no personal information on his page and only generic images. It turned out that he did not know the girl in question but did try to arrange to meet her. Thankfully parental checks picked up the potential problem and the police were informed. We felt that, regardless of the age restrictions on Facebook, we should share the information and highlight the need to work through 'friends' and delete any who are not actual friends.

### **School Meals Price Increase**

We found out yesterday that the price of a school meal will be increasing as from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 to £2.00. The setting of School Meal prices is beyond our control. We have seen a steady flow of families coming to ask about qualifying for free school meals since we started sharing information in newsletters - please approach any member of staff you wish and they will collect the information you need.

You can register your child for Free School Meals if you get any of these benefits:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £16,190
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

We are happy to help so if you think you may be able to benefit from free school meals please phone the Civic (0191 4333000) or come and talk to us.

### **Diary Dates**

w/b 4<sup>th</sup> March PPP appointments & Book Fair (FWD parents have separate arrangements)

7<sup>th</sup> March - we have had to move GD's Stabiliser Free Day (new date TBC)

27<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Event, in school mixed age pupil activity (this was going to be the Gibside Easter Event but we have decided to move this to the Summer Term in the hope of better weather!)

28<sup>th</sup> March - school closes with an Easter Assembly from MLK plus normal HT Assembly (2.30pm start)